



Security Council

Distr.: General
25 January 2012
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 25 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The League of Arab States dispatched its Observer Mission to Syria on the basis of a protocol that was signed by the parties on 19 December 2011. Having concluded its first month of work on 19 January 2012, the Observer Mission has prepared a final report in which it makes a number of observations and presents facts that are based on what the observers witnessed on the ground.

Syria has proven that it has complied fully and strictly with the protocol and the Arab plan of action for resolving the Syrian crisis. All armed elements have been withdrawn from the streets and 7,604 detainees not implicated in violent acts were released. From the beginning of December 2011 to 15 January 2012, the Syrian Government has granted authorizations to some 147 foreign and Arab media organizations. This is in addition to the 90 other accredited media organizations operating in Syria with full-time correspondents. The Government, moreover, has not resorted to any form of violence and has exercised maximum self-restraint, a policy which has, inter alia, enticed armed groups to commit further attacks against State institutions and kill more civilians and members of the security forces. All of this took place in full view of the Arab observers, who have themselves verified the events and reported on them faithfully and objectively.

The report of the Observer Mission has clearly revealed the truth of everything that we had brought to your attention that, first, a systematic media and political campaign built on disinformation is being waged with a view to distorting the facts on the ground and that, second, armed terrorist groups are exploiting the legitimate demands of the Syrian people for reform in order to undermine stability and security in Syria and carry out terrorist attacks against State institutions and against civilians and military personnel indiscriminately. It should be noted that the members of the Observer Mission saw all of this with their own eyes. They are genuine eyewitnesses to what is happening, unlike certain parties, which, unfortunately, are conducting a rabid disinformation campaign to defame the Syrian State in order to serve their dubious interventionist goals, which are contrary to the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations. The findings of the Observer Mission are based on information gathered and observations made on the ground, and refute all of the fabricated and misleading reports, issued by various sources, concerning events in Syria. Those reports have consistently sought to hold the Syrian authorities responsible for the violence, while completely ignoring the armed groups that



receive political, military, financial and media support from abroad. We are very disappointed that, from the very beginning of the painful events that have beset Syria, certain United Nations officials have accepted those reports without verifying their credibility; they have ignored several letters from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations that set out the truth of what is happening in Syria and draw attention to the danger of heeding such arbitrary reports of doubtful origin. We call on those persons to correct their positions, which are based on inaccurate information, in accordance with the facts on the ground, including the findings set out in the report of the Observer Mission. In that connection, you will find below several points, exactly as they appeared in the report of the Head of the Arab Observer Mission, that affirm and clarify the points we have raised. We furthermore hope that the officials concerned with the report will request its circulation as a document of the Security Council.

- Paragraph 26: In Homs and Dar'a, the Mission observed armed groups committing acts of violence against Government forces, resulting in death and injury among their ranks. In certain situations, Government forces responded to attacks against their personnel with force. The observers noted that some of the armed groups were using flares and armour-piercing projectiles.
- Paragraph 27: In Homs, Idlib and Hama, the Observer Mission witnessed acts of violence being committed against Government forces and civilians that resulted in several deaths and injuries. Examples of those acts include the bombing of a civilian bus, killing eight persons, and the bombing of a train carrying diesel oil. In another incident in Homs, a police bus was blown up, killing two police officers. A fuel pipeline and some small bridges were also bombed.
- Paragraph 28: The Mission noted that many parties falsely reported that explosions or violence had occurred in several locations. When the observers went to those locations, they found that those reports were unfounded.
- Paragraph 29: The Mission also noted that, according to its teams in the field, the media exaggerated the nature of the incidents and the number of persons killed in incidents and protests.
- Paragraph 30: Peaceful demonstrations by both Government supporters and the opposition took place in several places. None of those demonstrations were disrupted.
- Paragraph 33: The Mission received reports from parties outside Syria indicating that the number of detainees was 16,237. It also received information from the opposition inside the country that the number of detainees was 12,005. In validating those figures, the teams in the field discovered that there were discrepancies between the lists, that information was missing and inaccurate, and that names were repeated.
- Paragraph 37: The Mission determined that the total number of detainees that the Syrian Government said it had released was 7,604 persons.
- Paragraph 38: The Mission is attempting to verify that 5,152 detainees have been released. It is continuing its efforts in that regard with the Government.
- Paragraph 39: The Mission confirmed that all military vehicles, tanks and heavy weapons had been withdrawn from cities and residential

neighbourhoods. Although there is still some security measures in place in the form of earthen berms and barriers in front of important buildings, they do not affect citizens.

- Paragraph 44: The Mission reports that the French journalist who died in Homs had been killed by mortar shells fired by the opposition.
- Paragraph 49: Twenty-two observers declined to complete the mission for personal reasons. Some observers offered unfounded reasons, which were not accepted by the Head of the Mission, while others had a personal agenda.
- Paragraph 50: Some observers reneged on their duties and broke the oath they had taken. They made contact with officials from their countries and gave them exaggerated accounts of events. Those officials consequently developed a bleak and unfounded picture of the situation.
- Paragraph 68: Since it began its work, the Mission has been the target of a vicious media campaign. Some media outlets have published unfounded statements, which they attributed to the Head of the Mission. They have also grossly exaggerated events, thereby distorting the truth.
- Paragraph 69: Such contrived reports have helped to increase tensions among the Syrian people and undermined the observers' work.
- Paragraph 71: The Mission determined that there is an armed entity that is not mentioned in the protocol.
- Paragraph 73: The Mission noted that the Government strived to help it succeed in its task and remove any barriers that might stand in its way. The Government also facilitated meetings with all parties. No restrictions were placed on the movement of the Mission and its ability to interview Syrian citizens, both those who opposed the Government and those who supported it.
- Paragraph 74: The Mission determined that Syrian citizens believe the crisis should be resolved peacefully through Arab mediation alone, without international intervention. Doing so would allow them to live in peace and complete the reform process.
- Paragraph 75: Recently, there have been incidents that have had grave consequences and led to the loss of life and property. Such incidents include the bombing of buildings, trains carrying fuel, vehicles carrying diesel oil and explosions targeting the police, members of the media and fuel pipelines. Some of those attacks have been carried out by the Free Syrian Army and some by other armed opposition groups.
- Paragraph 82: Since its establishment, attitudes towards the Mission have been characterized by insincerity or, more broadly speaking, a lack of seriousness. Before it began carrying out its mandate and even before its members had arrived, the Mission was the target of a vicious campaign directed against the League of Arab States and the Head of the Mission, a campaign that increased in intensity after the observers' deployment.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate that Syria will continue with its policy of implementing legitimate popular demands for reform, regardless of any unilateral coercive sanctions, pressures and attempts to interfere in its internal affairs, and thereby undermine stability and security in our land. In the important

speech that he delivered on 10 January 2012, Mr. Bashar Al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, emphasized the continuation of this policy, which is aimed at fostering the process of building a democratic nation, broadening political and economic participation, strengthening national unity, ensuring public order, national security and citizens' safety, preventing political chaos and achieving security, stability, and prosperity for the Syrian people, causing as little loss possible and achieving the greatest benefit.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council on an urgent basis.

(Signed) **Bashar Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations